

Advocacy and your voice is heard

Campbell River Mirror -



At a Natural Resources Business and Community roundtable held here last week, Campbell River Chamber President Andy Leitch and I had the opportunity to attend at the invitation of The Hon. Lisa Raitt, M.P and hosted by Parliamentary Secretary David Anderson. Similar sessions were held throughout the province but what resonated and were remarked on by the Federal representatives, were the open and frank discussions from all Campbell River attendees around community and business impacts but just as importantly on moving beyond the current climate and positioning for what lies ahead.

We're all well aware of the current climate of uncertainty but times like this call for innovative ideas and solutions. This pre-budget invitation gave the Campbell River Chamber the opportunity to outline the Chamber's overall recommendations for the 2009 Federal budget, including specifics targeted towards our natural resource sectors.

Our Chamber's participation in the BC Chamber of Commerce network discussions and based on input received across membership, produced recommendations for federal budget consideration focused on five key areas. Those recommendations targeted responsible leadership to Invest in Housing; Expedite infrastructure spending; Build strong and sustainable labour markets and training incentives; Support traditional and emerging industrial sectors and Improve access to credit. The specific recommendations under each of those areas were provided to our Chamber members and will be available on our website by the end of the week.

In times of uncertainty it's easier sometimes to look to what isn't working but there's always the flip side of that and sometimes those messages get lost in the hype and sensationalism of what makes the day's headlines.

In light of what's been happening in our community, we've seen those businesses and individuals who are taking a different approach to the situation and they're the ones who are driving the context for what's been described as a resilient, forward-thinking and innovative community when people talk about what's happening here in Campbell River.

We've seen it in the community coming together to shop local and invest back into our community and in spite of the personal and social challenges that many families have had to face with industry transitions, we've seen it in the way they are considering re-training or transferring skills to a new career or industry and determined that their family will have the opportunity to live and work in this community. It's re-affirmation that Campbell River is committed to a healthy, prosperous and sustainable future and the Campbell River Chamber will be there at the forefront ensuring the voice of our members is loud and clear.

To comment on this article or for further information about the Chamber in Campbell River, please email colleen.evans@campbellriverchamber.ca